



SUGAR LAND'S SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM GUIDE

www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste



Services

Sugar Land's new automated, state-of-the-art collection system is a cost effective method of residential solid waste and recycling collection used by more and more municipalities. Each home is provided with special carts that are easy to roll and place curbside on the designated collection day.

Households in Sugar Land will receive:

- Automated garbage collection twice per week, utilizing a standard 95-gallon grey cart;
- Automated recycling collection once per week, utilizing a standard 65-gallon green cart;
- Green waste collection once per week;
- Bulky waste collection once per month; and
- An on-call collection service.

Cart Information

- Residents will receive the standard cart sizes listed above, unless a different size was requested.
- If a different cart size is needed, you can request a different size by calling **713-726-7307**. A cart change fee of \$25 is normally required, but will be waived for all requests received by November 30.
- Republic Services will begin exchanging cart sizes on Monday, November 7.

The new solid waste and recycling program will enhance services and save City residents \$800,000 annually.



Automated Garbage Service

Automated garbage service is provided twice a week utilizing a City-issued grey cart.

Set your cart out by 7 a.m. on the day of collection but no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening before.

Carts should be placed at the base of the curb (where curbs exist) with the cart wheels against the curb. Handles should be facing away from the street. Lids should open to the street.

Carts need to be removed from the curb by 8 a.m. on the morning following collection.

Always keep the lid shut.

Carts must be stored on your property, in compliance with deed restrictions. Do not store your cart in the alley or on the street.

The cart remains the property of the City of Sugar Land. It is yours to use while participating in the program. If you move, leave the cart at the residence.

Garbage Tip: Old Garbage Containers

Your old garbage containers can be utilized for the green waste collection. You can store your grass clippings, leaves and other items in the container and place it out for collection on your green waste day.

Carts should be placed in the street with the wheels against the curb. Handles should be facing away from the street. Lids should open to the street.



Automated Recycling Service

Automated recycling service is provided once a week utilizing a City-issued green cart with a wide range of materials being accepted.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:


- Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phonebooks, office paper, school paper, mail, paperback books
- Cardboard, paperboard and paper bags
- Steel and tin cans (labels are ok)
- Aluminum cans, foil, and food trays
- Glass bottles and jars (all colors)
- Plastics #1-5, 7

NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Plastic bags
- Tissue products
- Carbon paper
- Styrofoam
- Food waste

Please use your recycling cart

- Set your recycling cart out by 7 a.m. on the day of collection, but no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening before.
- Carts should be placed at the base of the curb (where curbs exist) with the cart wheels against the curb. Handles should be facing away from the street. Lids should open to the street.
- Carts need to be removed from the curb by 8 a.m. on the morning following collection.
- Please recycle only the acceptable materials. All recyclable materials may be mixed together inside the cart.
- Place loose materials in your cart. Do not place any recyclables in plastic bags. Protect recyclables from inclement weather by keeping the lid closed.
- Only materials in the cart will be collected. Ensure that you flatten and cut cardboard to no larger than 2 ft. x 2 ft. Make sure cardboard does not get jammed in your cart prohibiting it from being emptied.
- Items placed outside of your cart will not be collected. Maximize space in your cart by crushing plastic bottles and aluminum cans, and cutting boxes down.
- Ensure that all your cans and bottles are clean and empty before recycling them to avoid contamination of other materials.



Please recycle only the acceptable materials.
All recyclable materials may be mixed together inside the cart.

How To Start Recycling In Your Home

Recycling at home is simple.

The City provides the external container, you decide how you want to separate the items inside your home. There are two options for separating: *purchase a container for the recyclables* or *take each recyclable to the external container*.

The simplest method is to purchase a container (any size plastic bin, wastebasket, or receptacle can be utilized) that can go next to your garbage can. You can even purchase a dual compartment container which has two compartments (one for garbage and one for recycling). Look for dual compartment containers at your local retailer.

By having the recycle container next to your garbage container, it is easy to deposit that plastic bottle, glass jar, newspaper, or aluminum can in the recycle container instead of the garbage can. When the recycle container is full, simply empty it into your recycle cart and wheel it out on your scheduled collection day.

Recycle Tip

Does plastic recycling get confusing? Just look for the recycle symbol. (shown here)

Almost all the plastic containers and bottles we use have a symbol of three arrows surrounding a number. The symbol indicates the material is a type of plastic that can be recycled. There are seven different kinds of recyclable plastics that carry this symbol and each can be reused in some way. The City's recycling program will accept all numbers of plastics except number 6, which is polystyrene, or commonly known as Styrofoam. If you are unable to locate the number and the item is not Styrofoam, please recycle it.



By having the recycle container next to your garbage container, it is easy to deposit that plastic bottle, newspaper, or aluminum can in the recycle container instead of the garbage can.



Green Waste Service

Green waste service is provided once a week and is recycled into mulch or compost at a composting facility.


Green Waste includes:

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Brush
- Tree limbs
- Christmas trees (ornaments and lights removed)
- Organic material produced in your yard or garden

**Green waste does NOT include food waste or treated wood.*

Green Waste Guidelines

- Set your green waste out by 7 a.m. on the day of collection but no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening before.
- Loose materials such as grass clippings and leaves should be placed in a reusable container (your old garbage container) or in bags and tied.
- If you use a container, it needs to be removed from the curb by 8 a.m. on the morning following collection.
- Tree limbs must be less than 4 inches in diameter and less than 4 feet in length.
- Brush and tree limbs must be stacked in small piles (3 feet high and 3 feet wide). Bundling of tree limbs is not required, but recommended.
- Green waste should be set out at the curb at least four feet from carts or other objects.
- Do not place green waste in your garbage or recycling carts.
- If you have a lawn care professional tending your yard, please inform them to service your yard prior to your collection day.

A photograph of two recycling bins (one brown, one grey) filled with yard waste, with a green text box overlaying the top right. The bins are on a concrete curb next to a grassy area. A black plastic bag is visible behind the brown bin. A pile of cut branches and leaves is on the ground to the right of the bins. The background shows a house and trees.

Loose materials, other than tree limbs, should be placed in a reusable container or in bags and tied.

Grasscycling: “Don’t Bag It”

Grasscycling means leaving grass clippings on the lawn to decompose into soil. The key to grasscycling is to mow at the proper height and disperse the small grass clippings evenly so they fall down to the soil. You do not need a special mulching mower. However, grasscycling results may be improved by using a mulching mower, by replacing a standard mower blade with a mulching blade, or by covering a mower’s outlet spout.

Benefits Of Grasscycling

- Makes Turf Greener And Tougher
- Prevents Common Turf Diseases
- Reduces Lawn Fertilizer Requirements
- Provides About 2 Pounds Of Nitrogen Per 1,000 Square Feet Of Lawn Per Year
- Does Not Cause Thatch— In Fact, Helps Prevent It
- Reduces Total Time Spent Mowing And Maintaining Your Lawn
- Cuts Down On Watering Needs And Costs
- Eliminates Disposal Of Grass Clippings And Sometimes Leaves

For more information on grasscycling and other yard programs, visit
www.takecareoftexas.org

The key to grasscycling is to mow at the proper height and disperse the small grass clippings evenly so they fall down to the soil.



Bulky Waste/On-Call Service

Bulky waste is provided once a month for items too large to fit in the garbage cart.

Bulky waste does not include construction, demolition or hazardous wastes.

Set your bulky items out by 7 a.m. on the day of collection but no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening before.

Bulky items should be set out at the curb at least four feet from carts or other objects.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Appliances (freon must be removed prior to collection)
- Mattresses
- Furniture: chairs, couches, dressers, coffee tables, etc
- Bags of garbage that would not fit into your cart
- Storage containers

NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Automobile parts
- Construction waste
- Demolition waste
- Fence pickets with nails
- Hazardous waste
- Paint
- Roofing materials
- Tires

On-Call Garbage Service

Residents can schedule additional garbage and bulky waste service by contacting **REPUBLIC SERVICES CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

713-726-7307

Requests for additional service will be completed the next business day. This service is subject to the following fees which must be paid prior to scheduling the service.

- Extra cart pick-up - First request is FREE, additional requests are \$25.
- Bulky Waste service up to 5 cubic yards - \$75.
- Bulky Waste service greater than 5 cubic yards - Call for pricing.

Bulky waste does not include construction, demolition or hazardous wastes.



Holiday Collection Schedule

Solid Waste collection will **NOT** occur on the following holidays if it falls on a week day.

- New Year's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

If your collection day falls on a holiday, you will receive service the following business day.

- If the holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, you will receive service the following day. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collections will be serviced on the regular schedule.
- If the holiday falls on a Wednesday, you will receive service the following day, but Thursday and Friday will be serviced on the regular schedule.
- If the holiday falls on a Thursday or Friday, you will receive service the following day.

For a detailed holiday collection schedule, please visit the City website.

Additional Holiday Service

The City understands the need for additional collections during the holidays and will offer an additional Bulky Waste collection day following the holidays listed below.

- New Year's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

On your first service day after the holiday, your garbage and recycling carts will be collected as normal, but bulky items will also be collected from the curb.

For a detailed schedule, please visit the City website.

www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste/holidayschedule

If your collection day falls on a holiday, you will receive service the following business day.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why does the City want to change to automated collections for garbage and recycling?

A. Automated collections will increase efficiency, reduce service costs and increase recycling, which reduces disposal costs.

Q. Do I have to pay for the new carts?

A. No, each household will receive one garbage and one recycling cart at no charge. If you need an additional garbage cart, they are available for a fee of \$5 per month. Additional recycle carts are provided at no charge.

Q. Are my service days the same?

A. Maybe, please visit the City website to view collection days by neighborhood.

Q. Where am I supposed to store the carts?

A. The City Ordinance does not require the container be stored out of sight, but does require the cart not block or interfere with a sidewalk. Carts should be stored in compliance with your HOA deed restrictions. Ideally, the carts should be stored in your garage. The City will use containers that are designed to blend in forest green for recycling and grey for garbage.

Q. Where will I place these new carts for pickup?

A. Carts should be placed at the base of the curb (where curbs exist) with the cart wheels against the curb. Make sure the container handle faces away from the street toward your home and lid should open to the street. Carts must be placed at least four feet from obstacles such as utility poles, mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants and parked cars.

Q. Why do I need to provide space between my garbage cart, recycling cart and other items out for collection?

A. A different vehicle collects each, so access is important. Also, the collection arm on the automated truck requires space to make the collection safely so that it will not tip over other containers or damage your property. Please keep the containers away from obstacles that may interfere with the collection.

Q. Can I use my old garbage container?

A. No, only carts issued by the City of Sugar Land can be used for garbage and recycling collection, but you can use your container to store Green Waste.



Q. Do I need to bag my garbage and recycling?

A. Items in your garbage cart should be bagged to keep the cart clean. Recyclables should be placed directly into the cart without a bag.

Q. I have more garbage than can fit in the cart. Can I get an additional cart?

A. Are you recycling? Recycling materials will give you more room in your garbage cart. Additional garbage carts are available for a fee of \$5 per month and can be requested by contacting Republic Services Customer Service. Additional recycle carts are provided at no charge.

Q. How will large items be collected such as furniture and appliances?

A. A separate collection will be provided for certain large items defined as Bulky Waste. These items include stoves, refrigerators (freon removed), furniture and other large household items that cannot be broken down. Bulky Waste does not include construction refuse, demolition refuse or hazardous wastes. Bulky waste service days are different from garbage and recycling service days.

Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

Q. What if my cart is lost, stolen or damaged?

A. The cart will be repaired or replaced if it is stolen or damaged beyond repair by any reason other than the customer's own neglect or misuse. If the container is lost or damaged beyond repair as a result of the customer's neglect or misuse, a fee to cover the costs for the replacement of the container will be charged to the customer by the contractor. Please contact Republic Services Customer Service for repair or replacement of your cart.

Q. If I move, do I take the cart with me?

A. The cart is the property of the City and is assigned to each street address by means of a unique serial number. If you move, leave the cart at the residence. Please do not write house numbers or put any other markings on the carts.

Q. What do I do with my old garbage cans when the program starts?

A. Your existing garbage cans can be used to store green waste or for other home projects. If you do not wish to keep it and it is made from a recyclable plastic, place it in your recycle cart. If the container is not recyclable, place it out for collection on your bulky waste day.

Q. What do I do with my old recycling bin when the program starts?

A. Your blue recycle bin will be collected by Republic Services from **December 5 – December 16** on your scheduled recycle day. Please ensure your recycle bin is placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on your recycle day.

Q. I do not recycle, what do I do with my recycle cart?

A. We encourage all residents to recycle, but if you do not wish to participate, please contact Republic Services Customer Service to have your recycle cart picked up.

Q. Can I get a larger/smaller cart than originally requested?

A. Yes. Residents have the option of a 35, 65, or 95 gallon cart for garbage and recycling. To request a different size, please contact Republic Services Customer Service. A cart change fee will apply.

Green Waste FAQ

Q. Why is green waste being collected separately from garbage and recycling?

A. Green waste accounts for approximately 40% of the waste and can easily be recycled. The green waste will be taken to a composting facility and recycled into compost or mulch.

Q. Can I put bagged green waste in my garbage cart?

A. We prefer the green waste not go into your garbage cart because it is not recycled. Please place green waste out on your green waste collection day.

Q. Can I use a reusable container to store the green waste?

A. Yes, reusable containers can be used to store and set out green waste for collection. Containers must be removed from the curb by 8 a.m. on the morning following collection.

Q. My yard is tended by a lawn care professional. How are they involved in this program?

A. They must follow the program guidelines and should make every effort to service your lawn prior to your green waste collection day. Green waste cannot be placed on the curb any earlier than 6 p.m. the evening before your collection day.

Q. How is green waste recycled if it is in plastic bags?

A. The plastic bags are opened by the solid waste contractor and only the green waste is recycled.

Q. Can I use compostable bags?

A. Compostable bags are not required but if you choose to use them, both the bag and green waste will be recycled.

Storm Water Pollution

Storm drains may appear to be a convenient disposal site, but any material other than water that goes into the storm drain affects the water quality in our lakes and waterways, which can impact our drinking water. The most common pollutants of storm drain include fertilizers, pesticides, lawn clippings, litter, pet waste and petroleum products. Please help us reduce storm water runoff pollution by remembering these everyday tips.

USE LESS FERTILIZER ON YOUR LAWN

You can use less fertilizer, reduce pollution and still keep your lawn green and healthy. Fertilize your lawn lightly and never right before a rainstorm. Replace chemical fertilizers and pesticides with products that contain natural ingredients.

USE FEWER TOXIC PESTICIDES LESS OFTEN

All pesticides, even natural ones, are poisons. Some that seem safe to use in your home or garden can be lethal in the environment. Use pesticides sparingly. Prepare and use only the amount that is absolutely necessary. Follow label directions exactly.

COMPOST YARD WASTE

Do not put grass clippings, leaves and garden trimmings in the storm drains. Yard waste blocks the storm water conveyance and depletes the oxygen in the water when it decomposes, stressing fish and other aquatic life in our water ways. Instead, leave grass clippings on the lawn, compost them with leaves and pulled garden weeds, or place on curb for your green waste collection day.

DON'T LITTER

Garbage that washes down storm drains fouls our waterways and can harm or kill wildlife. Some litter, such as plastics, break down so slowly they can remain in the river or pond for centuries.


PROPERLY DISPOSE OF PET WASTE

Pet waste left on grassy areas, sidewalks and streets is flushed into our storm drain system when it rains. The toxic mix of bacteria from dog waste and water then flows untreated into our local waterways. Dispose of pet waste in a trash receptacle.

RECYCLE

Take used motor oil and antifreeze to your local recycling center and promptly repair fluid leaks in cars, trucks, and other motorized equipment. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



A photograph of a storm drain with a metal grate, showing some debris and a blue-painted curb. The grate is made of dark metal with a grid pattern. The surrounding area is concrete, and there is a blue-painted curb in the foreground. The image is used as a background for a text overlay.

The water quality in our lakes and waterways is adversely affected by yard waste, trash, and chemicals dumped in the storm drain.

Other Recycling Options

COOKING OIL

Cooking oil is difficult to dispose. You can't pour it down the drain or it will clog your pipes and make a big mess. You can't throw it outside as it's not good for lawns and plants. So, what CAN you do with it? RECYCLE it!

Cooking oil can be recycled **FREE** of charge at the Public Works Office located at 111 Gillingham Lane. For more information, please call **281-275-2450**.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones can be recycled at retailers throughout the City. For a detailed retailer list, please visit the website below. *Keep Sugar Land Beautiful* accepts cell phones at various businesses throughout the City. For a complete list of locations, visit www.kslb.org or call **281-313-5752**.

PAINT

Paint can be recycled at the Fort Bend County Household Hazardous Waste Facility for a fee. (See info below.)

Full cans of paint can be donated to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Stafford. For more information, call **281-403-0700**.

Latex (water-based paints) can be disposed of in your garbage cart if the paint is completely dried. Kitty litter can expedite the drying process.

ELECTRONICS

Computers, monitors, and other components can be recycled at no charge through the manufacturer. For details, please visit: www.texasrecyclescomputers.org.

Computers, TVs and other electronics can be recycled at the Fort Bend County HHW Facility or at local retailers. For a detailed retailer list, please visit the website below.

Please visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste/disposaldirectory for places to properly dispose of items.

Fort Bend County Household Hazardous Waste Facility

This facility accepts hazardous waste from Fort Bend County residents. A valid driver's license or other proof of residency is required. Fees may apply.

Accepted items include, but are not limited to:

- Electronics: TVs, computers
- Household cleaners
- Fertilizers and lawn chemicals
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Flammable liquids
- Paint (latex or water-based)
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Paint thinners and strippers
- Gasoline
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Household chemicals
- Pool chemicals

CONTACT THE FORT BEND COUNTY HHW REGARDING FEES FOR DISPOSAL.

ADDRESS: 1200 Blume Road Rosenberg, TX 77471 **PHONE:** 281-633-7581

Computers, TVs and other electronics can be recycled at the Fort Bend County HHW Facility.



Cart Maintenance

Your cart is constructed of heavy-duty, injection-molded plastic to provide years of reliable service. In order to get the most out of your cart, it is important to follow the simple guidelines.

CARING FOR YOUR CART

Simply rinse the inside of your cart with water from time to time to keep it clean.

CART SAFETY

Never sit, climb or stand on your cart. Do not allow children to play on, in or around the cart.

LOADING THE CART

Materials should be bagged before placing in the cart so lightweight items, such as packaging peanuts, don't litter the street. Items that should not be placed in the carts include construction waste, demolition waste, hazardous waste, medical waste, hot ashes, rock, sod and large appliances. Materials for recycling should be placed directly into the recycle cart.

ROLLING YOUR CART

Ensure the lid is closed. Use the toe hold at the bottom rear of the cart, grasp the plastic handle and tilt the cart toward you. You can either push or pull the cart. You will be pleased at how easy the cart is to maneuver.

PLACING THE CART AT THE CURB

The cart should be placed at the base of the curb (where curbs exist) with the cart wheels against the curb. The handles should point away from the street. Lids should open to the street.

REMOVING AND STORING THE CART

To maintain the appearance of your neighborhood, please remove the cart from the curb after collection. Store the cart in your garage or other location in compliance with your deed restrictions. Be careful not to store it close to a furnace, fireplace, grill or any source of excessive heat.

KEEP THE LID SHUT

All materials must fit into the cart. A closed lid will also prevent tampering by pets, minimize odors and wind-blown litter and block rainwater.

CART IS DAMAGED, LOST OR STOLEN

The cart will be repaired or replaced, at no cost to the resident, if the cart is stolen or damaged beyond repair. If a resident's negligence or misuse damages a cart beyond repair, the resident will be charged a fee for replacing the cart. To report a damaged, lost or stolen cart, please contact **Republic Services at 713-726-7307.**

Materials should be bagged before placing in the garbage cart so lightweight items such as packaging peanuts don't litter the street.





CITY OF SUGAR LAND

Republic Services

(713)-726-7307

www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste